

Splash

A publication of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Drinking Water Section

Spring 2003

From the Drinking Water Section Manager

This edition of *Splash* comes during the 2003 legislative session and I want to discuss two bills, both of which affect ADEQ and drinking water systems, currently making their way through the legislative process.

House Bill 2381 is a technical correction bill that will align Arizona's statutes related to the Safe Drinking Water Program with the federal statutes established by congress. Currently, there are some inconsistencies that make Arizona's statutes appear to be less stringent in some areas than the federal law. It addresses those inconsistencies and will allow EPA to continue to approve ADEQ primacy applications for the Safe Drinking Water Program.

This bill would remove the requirement for ADEQ to notify water systems within 30 days of a change in compliance status. At issue is the absence of any similar federal requirement. However, ADEQ has developed several means for communicating compliance status to water systems. These include:

- Providing the "major deficiency" report that water systems can request. This report identifies when a water system's compliance status would prevent them from having plans approved or, in the case of the Arizona Corporation Commission, would prevent them from going forward with a rate hearing. The report has been automated in ADEQ's database and is easily compiled.
- Additionally, ADEQ develops monitoring schedules for all participating Monitoring Assistance Program systems. These schedules are predicated upon the systems' compliance status and are available at www.adeq.state.az.us/environ/water/dw/schedule.html.
- Another communication tool, the ADEQ Compliance and Enforcement Handbook, is available at www.adeq.state.az.us/comm/download/agency.html and provides a rule-by-rule listing of drinking water violations that are considered "major." Water systems reviewing their records can use this to determine any violations and allow them to seek assistance in addressing them.



Senate Bill 1167 will make vulnerability assessments created by water systems, which are submitted to EPA, confidential. Confidentiality of

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these documents is critical to successful development and implementation of measures to protect drinking water supplies from intentional acts of vandalism and terrorism. SB 1167 will allow water systems and others to keep these documents confidential by exempting them from the Arizona public records law.

We have worked to move these two bills forward and ensure ADEQ maintains its primacy delegation with EPA. We look forward to your support on both of these bills and ask that you contact us if you have any concerns regarding them.

Finally, in our effort to be a valuable resource to you, we are very happy to announce the completion of the Arsenic Master Plan (AMP). The AMP is available at www.adeq.state.az.us/enviro/water/dw/arsenic.html and hard copies will soon be mailed to all water systems referenced in the plan. As we move forward in implementing the arsenic regulation in Arizona, the department will begin an intensive outreach and education effort on the use of the AMP and the tools it contains. I encourage you to stay abreast of our training schedule to ensure you get the help you need to meet the January 2006 compliance deadline.

As always, if you have any suggestions on ways we can improve *Splash*, please do not hesitate to contact us. The ADEQ Drinking Water Program can be reached at (602) 207-4644 or, toll free in Arizona, (800) 234-5677.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey W. Stuck, Safe
Drinking Water Section Manager

2003 Water and Wastewater Workshop Schedule

Mark the following dates on your calendars for (these should be capitalized because that is the actual title of the workshop, right?) water and wastewater workshops for 2003. We will be holding workshops in Room 250 of the ADEQ building at 1110 W. Washington St. Please obtain a visitor badge from the ADEQ receptionist whenever you visit our building.

Workshops will continue to be held on the second Thursday of each month. Remaining 2003 workshop dates are May 8, Jun. 12, Jul. 10, Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11.

In general, each workshop will include a mix of the following topics: rules under development, rule interpretation and compliance information, sanitary surveys, operator certification issues, engineering and technology updates, and discussions of chemical and biological contaminants. Although our goal is for each workshop

to focus on different topics, issues of great importance or complexity may be repeated at multiple workshops.

A final agenda, including the specific topics to be covered, will be available at www.adeq.state.az.us/enviro/water/dw/opcert.html about a week prior to the workshop date.

Although most workshops will allow attendees to earn a minimum of four professional development hours, topics and agendas may change without prior notice. Please allow a flexible schedule as the workshops may run longer or shorter than scheduled.

There is no cost to attend these workshops and no pre-registration is required for attendance.

For further information about the workshops, please contact Dolores Edwards at (602) 771-4644, toll free in Arizona at (800) 234-5677 or dhe@ev.state.az.us.



Operator Certification Program Updates

ADVS Reimbursement for Exams – Recently, the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS), Office of Veterans' Education, approved all types and grades of operator certification exams for the reimbursement of a veteran's benefits. ADVS will reimburse eligible veterans up to \$100 for the cost of an exam. This approval is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2002. Operators who have questions about this program or need assistance, should contact ADVS at (602) 255-5395 or education@azvets.com.

Reciprocity Agreements with Border States – The department is currently working to develop formal reciprocity agreements for operator certification with our border states. As we improve the quality of our exams, it will be easier for individual operators to obtain equivalent certifications with our neighbors. In the long-term, we will continue to work toward formal agreements with any state or territory interested in working with the department.

Individual Operator Certification Information – ADEQ recently added a link to Operator Certification Program Web page that allows individual operators to access their certification information. It is located at www.adeq.state.az.us/enviro/water/dw/opcertsearch.html. Operators can verify their certificate expiration date(s), work phone number and e-mail address. There is also a search function that will allow people to search for operators by county, certification type or certification grade. For example, you could run a search for all Grade 2 distribution operators in Gila county.

Answer Corner

As a continuing feature of *Splash*, we answer one question each issue related to water system operations, rules, operator certification or water in general. Here's this issue's question:

Q: *I own a small public water system. We are part of the Monitoring Assistance Program. I notice that MAP now samples for nitrites; does MAP sample for nitrates, too?*

A: Although MAP recently began sampling for nitrites, the program does not sample nitrates. MAP will sample for VOCs, SOCs, IOCs, asbestos, radionuclides and nitrites. The individual water systems are responsible for bacterial testing, disinfection by-products, lead and copper, and nitrates.

Capacity Development and Technical Assistance

The Capacity Development Program assists public water systems to improve the technical, managerial and financial elements of operating a water treatment plant or water distribution system. Capacity development promotes regulatory and technical training and workshops, and offers operational technical assistance for public water systems, including system evaluations and vulnerability assessments.

System Evaluations – A system evaluation provides a means to objectively identify the strengths and weaknesses of a facility's infrastructure, operational procedures, organizational management and financial management. The results of an system evaluation may allow ADEQ staff to offer additional assistance to increase the capacity of a public water system.

Vulnerability Assessments – A vulnerability assessment identifies unprotected areas of a public water system to develop and strengthen emergency response plans, which address potential natural disasters, vandalism or terrorism.

A public water system serving 3,301 to 49,999 people is required to complete a vulnerability assessment by June 30, 2004. The Drinking Water Section will assist approximately 98 public water systems in this category. ADEQ may also assist systems that serve 3,300 or fewer people complete vulnerability assessments.

For more information, please contact Kathy Stevens at (602) 771-4653, toll free in Arizona at (800) 234-5677 or kds@ev.state.az.us.



New Software Available for Water Systems

The *Show-me Water Ratemaker 4.1* spreadsheet is a software tool you can use to analyze the financial capacity of your system. It allows you to determine the capability of your current water rates, identify any possible adjustments to your water rates, investigate system costs and revenues, plan for future capital improvements, and predict your system's future financial capacity. The user-friendly software was developed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. If you have a good understanding of how to use Microsoft Excel, you can use this software to determine the current financial capacity of your system

and identify what changes may be necessary to increase that capacity for current and future compliance or capital needs.

Even though the spreadsheet may seem intimidating at first glance, it is straightforward and non-technical. There are 19 different tabs in the sheet: one is set of instructions and the other are different analysis screens. The instructions provide line-by-line and page-by-page discussions of each field, what numbers to input and what the results mean.

Water systems can use this tool to compare their current financial

capacity to what they may need for future compliance costs and capital improvements. Systems can also use the charts and graphs generated by this software to explain their need to customers and decision makers.

In addition, the Environmental Management Institute Software Suite provides several categories of financial capacity software, including water, sewer and storm water spreadsheets. You can download this software package for free by visiting the Missouri Department of Natural Resources at www.dnr.state.mo.us/oac/emiapps.htm.



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The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality shall preserve, protect and enhance the environment and the public health and shall be a leader in the development of public policy to maintain and improve the quality of Arizona's air, land and water resources. *Splash* is published in the spring, summer and winter. For more information or to be placed on the mailing list, call (602) 771-4644, toll free in Arizona at (800) 234-5677 or send a fax to (602) 207-4634.

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